(c) if so, what remedial measures Government have taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As a part of the new initiatives to strengthen the banking sector in the counry to bring it to global standards, the Public Sector Banks are seriously evaluating consolidations as one of the strategies to increase compeitiveness and add value. Consolidation would allow economies of scale in terms of footprint, manpower and other resources. Having Indian Banks of a larger size would enable them to face competition arising from internationalization of the economy. Consolidation is a timely response to augment efficiency which would lead to income generation and add to GDP of the country. To improve the functioning and profitability of the Nationalised Banks, Government has taken some steps. These steps *inter-alia* include enactment of law for effective recovery of Non-Performing Assests; deregulation of interest rates; introduction of prudential norms; reduction in Satutory Liquidity Ratio and Cash Reserve Ratio; and encouragement to Information Technology, Oganizational Restructuing, etc.

(b) and (c) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have stipulated certain steps for recovery of loans which *inter-alia* include evolving and implementing a recovery policy by banks, filing of suits in civil courts/ DRTs compromise settlement and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. Credit Infomation Bureau has been set up to disseminate information on borrowers among the banks. Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme has been put in place to provide a transparent mechanism for restructuring of coporate debts of viable entities facing problems due to internal and external factors. Assest reconstruction Company (India Ltd.) has been incorporated for the purpose of addressing Non-performing Assets. The recent amendment of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 has further strengthened the recovery process of the Banks.

Branches of NABARD

1975. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up the branches of the National Agriculture and Rural Development Bank in every district;

(b) if so, the number of the branches that have been set-up so far in the country, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) There are no proposals to set up branches of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in every district. However, NABARD has opened, in a phased manner, 359 District Development Managers' (DDMs) Offices in variuous States in the country so far. Recently, guidelines have been framed for opening such residence-cum-offices of DDMs taking into account the economic backwardness of the district, predominance of tribal population and availability of infrastructure facilities in the district. State-wise details of residence-cum-offices of DDMs are given in the Statement.

Statement

District Development Managers' Officers—Status as on 30th September, 2004

Sl.No.	State/UT	DDM Districts
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-
3.	Assam	14
4.	Bihar	22
5.	Chattisgarh	11
6.	Gujarat	16
7.	Goa	1
8.	Haryana	14
9.	Himachal Pradesh	8
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
11.	Jharkhand	12
12.	Karnataka	21
13.	Kerala	13

Sl.No.	State/UT	DDM Districts
14.	Madhya Pradesh	26
15.	Maharashtra	28
16.	Manipur	1
17.	Meghalaya	2
18.	Mizoram	-
19.	Nagaland	-
20.	New Delhi	-
21.	Orissa	22
22.	Punjab	14
23.	Rajasthan	22
24.	Sikkim	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	22
26.	Tripura	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	44
28.	Uttaranchal	6
29	West Bengal	14
30.	Pondicherry	1
31.	Lakshadeep	-
32.	Daman & Diu	-
33.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-
34.	Chandigarh	-
35.	Andaman & Nicobar	-
	All INDIA :	359

Single regulator for pension and insurance sector

1976. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously considering of having a single regulator for both pension and insurance;